

**Statement by the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia H.E.
Mr. Alen Simonyan at the General Debate of the 151th IPU Assembly**

Geneva, 19-23 October 2025

Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis

Madam President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Fellow parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to address the 151st IPU Assembly on behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. For the Armenian people, the significance of this General Debate topic cannot be overstated.

No stranger to humanitarian crises, Armenia still carries the memory of the 1988 earthquake, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Substantial amounts of humanitarian aid were sent by 113 countries, demonstrating that international solidarity and humanitarian action can transcend borders and politics.

Beyond our borders, Armenian peacekeepers have participated in missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Lebanon, working to protect civilians and promote stability. We will continue to strengthen our humanitarian capabilities and extend protection wherever needed.

In September 2023, within only a few days, more than 100,000 Armenians from Karabakh were displaced and crossed into Armenia. For a nation of three million, this was an immense test of our capacity and resilience.

By providing shelter, healthcare, education, and employment, the Armenian government responded with compassion and resolve. This experience proved that even small countries, guided by principle, can realize the vision of humanitarianism inspired by our noblest ideals.

Our humanitarian work is inseparable from our pursuit of peace. On August 8, 2025, in Washington DC, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, witnessed the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan sign a joint declaration, representing a vital step toward ending decades of conflict and suffering.

On the same day, a text entitled an Agreement on Peace and the Establishment of Inter-State Relations was initialed by the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

As an outcome of the Washington meeting, Armenia will work with the United States and mutually determined third parties to create a framework for the “Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity.” This infrastructure project, TRIPP, stems from Armenia’s dream to create seamless, regional connectivity through its “Crossroads of Peace” plan, which provides for the development of a railway, with the prospect of developing highways, pipelines, electric transmission lines, and cables between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and neighboring countries.

Yet, I must note that the detainees still held in Azerbaijan represent a humanitarian obstacle that must be resolved. We seek the release and reunification of these captives with their families as quickly as possible. Another critical humanitarian priority is to clarify the fate of numerous missing persons.

We know Armenia is not alone in the struggle to build a more humane world. From Ukraine to Gaza, Sudan to Haiti, humanitarian crises are unfolding before our eyes. Civilians — women, children, the elderly — continue to bear the brunt of the suffering.

These tragedies are urgent reminders of our duty to act in defense of human dignity. We believe that human rights are universal and that, as such, their protection must never be selective.

Colleagues, the lessons are clear: Dialogue and peace must replace discord and war. Empathy, not passivity, must guide our actions.

Upholding these principles is our collective responsibility.

Thank you.